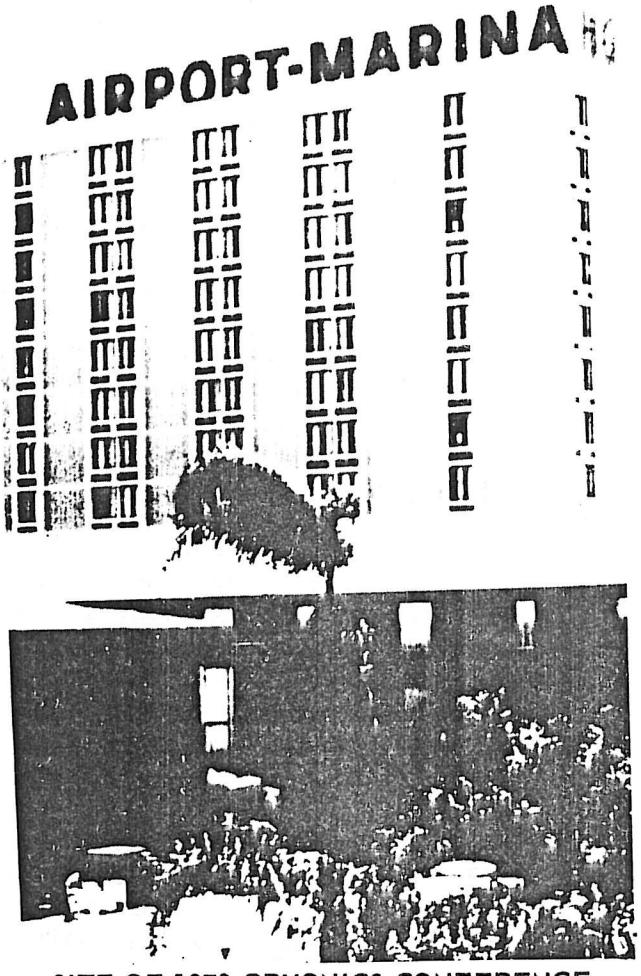
THE OUTLOOK

March, 1970 Vol. 1, No. 3

Dr. D.T. Burton

Walter Runkel and Daughter Joan



SITE OF 1970 CRYONICS CONFERENCE

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NEWSLETTER CHANGE

Only three months old and already the CSM newsletter has had a metamorphosis. The name has been changed from The Cryonics Society of Michigan Newsletter to The Outlook, which more aptly represents the character of the endeavor.

The scope of the news organ has been expanded to included world wide as well as local news, and in line with this expanded coverage the content is being changed from less to more formal. The editorial staff has been enlarged and now includes Robert Ettinger.

It is felt that the new format and style will be better suited to general readership. Two copies will be sent to each CSM member, along with brochures. It is urged that the extra copy, and brochure, be given to someone who might join the Society or provide some other type of help or cooperation.

The editors intend to work for continuous improvement and have a number of interesting projects for future development.

Submissions for possible publication are welcome.

Dispatches from the Freezing Front

BURTONS CONSIDERED FREEZING

When Dr. DeWitt T. Burton died February 17, his family considered freezing the prominent Detroit physician, but the final decision was negative.

Dr. Burton died, apparently of a stroke, not long after midnight. About 10:00 A.M. the following day, Robert Ettinger received a call at Highland Park College from Mr. George B. McFall, funeral director, inquiring about freezing--was it too late, what was the procedure, what would be the cost, etc.? Mr. McFall said he was inquiring on behalf of the family, particularly Dr. Gail Burton Allen, Dr. Burton's daughter. Dr. Allen, also a physician, was on her way by plane from her home in New York.

Ettinger explained to Mr. McFall--whose only previous knowledge of cryonics was through newspaper and magazine articles--that the delay

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STAND-BY ALERT

CSM members and equipment were standing by in Ann Arbor on Friday, March 6, for a possible freezing. It was a useful exercise, although fortunately the patient came safely through her somewhat dangerous surgery.

Mrs. Cordelia Kammermeyer underwent spinal surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital. Her son, Dr. John K. Kammermeyer, is a resident in internal medicine at University of Michigan Hospital, and had recently joined the Cryonics Society of Michigan. Her husband, Prof. Karl Kammermeyer, is head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Iowa. Like many others, the family had been interested in cryonics for years, but had not become actively involved until an immediate danger presented itself.

Thursday evening two CSM officers, Robert Ettinger and Joseph Oskin,

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BURTONS (cont. from page 1)

would certainly reduce Dr. Burton's chances, but no one could say by how much, or just how good or bad his chances might be. He added that in his own family the patient would be frozen even under such unfavorable circumstances, if necessary. He advised Mr. McFall to pack the prospective patient in ice, and not to embalm him, pending a final decision. (At that time, Mr. McFall thought that embalming had not started.)

Several hours later Dr. Allen telephoned with similar questions and answers. It was by this time clear that Dr. Burton was already embalmed. Dr. Allen apparently had only a general knowledge of the freezing program and was not familiar with the term "cryonics" or with CSM. Ettinger offered consultation and help. He explained that the Society is not in business but would lend the mortician cryoprotective chemicals from our stock, to be replaced by the Burtons the next day if they decided to have freezing performed. At that time it appeared the van would go to Ann Arbor the next day to stand by during a scheduled operation at University Hospital.

However, Mr. McFall reported later that the family had decided against cryogenic interment. Details of the discussion are not known but they probably revolved around the usual factors of last minute consideration plus ignorance or opposition by some members of the family.

Dr. Burton, 77, was a former member of the Board of Governors of Wayne State University and medical director of Burton Mercy Hospital, among many other civic and professional positions of eminence. His freezing might not only have saved an unusual man but might have substantially advanced cryonics in Michigan. At any rate, we again have evidence that thinking people are aware of cryonics, if only peripherally. Our continuing job is to broaden and sharpen awareness, so that everyone, including CSM members, will have a better chance.

STAND-BY (cont. from page 1)

and two members of the student auxiliary, David Ettinger and Joel Dzodin, went to Ann Arbor with the CSM van (mobile emergency unit) and its equipment, recently improved by Walter Runkel. (Dave and Joel are U. of M. students, but were in Oak Park on spring vacation.) (Other CSM Ann Arbor residents were unavailable because of travel or illness.)

Funeral Director Robert McCabe, of the Muehlig Chapel, had agreed to cooperate, and plans were reviewed at a meeting at the chapel Thursday evening between the two CSM officers, Dr. Kammermeyer, Prof. Kammermeyer, and Mr. McCabe. The van was parked in the chapel's garage--a narrow squeeze through the door in both height and width.

Friday morning, before the 7:30 A.M. surgery, the CSM people scouted the route and hospital layout, and prepared the van, including bagging of ice, then stood by at the chapel. If there had been an emergency, one of the Kammermeyers would have phoned the chapel--just a few minutes drive from the hospital--and the CSM litter, with Iron Heart and ice, would have been at the surgical suite before the hospital's resuscitation attempts had ended. Steve Ron and John Kinney were on call in Oak Park, and would have had dry ice in Ann Arbor in ample time for that phase of preparation.

Perhaps two lessons stand out in this latest alert. First, the old story that advance preparation is extremely important: in this instance, the patient and her next of kin were

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LOCAL NEWS: VAN IMPROVEMENTS

The CSM van (Mobile Emergency Unit) is being steadily improved through the efforts of CSM director Walter Runkel. Mr. Runkel, who is chief engineer at WWJ-TV (Channel 4), has devised many changes which make the van's interior more functional and also more professional in appearance.

The box for storage of perfusion chemicals has been streamlined, its mounting improved, and a thermostatically controlled 400 watt heating element added for protection against freezing. Travel restraints for the perfusion table and rolling litter have been changed. Quick-release mountings for some of the minor accessories have been added. The location of the large oxygen tank is being shifted for more efficient use of space, and a new mounting for the small tanks installed.

Still further additions and changes are planned, as finances permit. Eventually, it is hoped the van will be self-sufficient for all phases of preparation up to permanent storage.

LOCAL NEWS: MONROE FORUM

It is difficult to assess the success of the forum in Monroe held in the First National Bank Community Room at 7:30 P.M., February 12.

Attendance was poor. The fact that a near blizzard was raging throughout the area undoubtedly had something to do with this. Excellent publicity had been obtained in newspapers and over radio stations. Posters had been displayed at several different locations. There was a reporter present representing the Toledo Blade.

Despite the disappointing turnout, the forum was lively, and after the discussion several people evinced strong interest in cryonics. The reporter, Joseph Renke, said that he had come completely ignorant of the cryonics movement and now felt not only that it is feasible but highly desirable. There was a noticeable spirit of enthusiasm displayed by the group as a whole. However, just what the yield will be in increased membership is not yet clear.

Conley Hall, Robert Ettinger, Joseph Oskin, and Mae Jundo all had varying opinions as to the worth of the effort. Hall was disappointed to some extent as he had put forth a great deal of effort to draw a large turnout. He seemed to feel, however, that a nucleus of interest had been created. Up to this time he has been the only CSM member in the Monroe area.

Oskin thought the technique used (group discussion as opposed to a formal lecture situation) was promising and suggested some refinements and further development.

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STAND-BY (cont. from page 2.)

united in their intentions, but more often there is division in the family--sometimes unexpected division--and without formal legal preparations in advance, freezing can easily be frustrated and the patient's chance of life lost.

Second, we must work out remuneration for the professional personnel standing by, especially the funeral staff. They are reluctant to present a bill if the patient comes safely through the surgery, as is usually the case; yet they have gone to considerable effort and inconvenience to be prepared. Repetition of such profitless cooperation may tend to make funeral directors reluctant. We should recognize that their consultation, and the availability of their help, deserves recompense commensurate with the size of their capital investment and their staff time. This should be clearly understood in advance.

MONROE (continued from page 3)

Ettinger reserved judgment until enough time has passed for results in membership to be clear. Mrs. Junod felt that the effectiveness of the technique was amply demonstrated in the obviously encouraging attitudes of the majority of the non-member participants.

LOCAL NEWS: MARCH FORUM

The March membership forum was held at the home of Patrick Dewey in Pontiac on March 12, too late to be reported in this issue.

NEW YORK ACTIVITY

The Cryonics Society of New York has prepared a 16 mm film centered on its activities and those of Cryo-Span Corporation. It is planned that copies of the film will be made available for sale to other Societies and interested parties for educational purposes. The film has already been featured on Canadian television, and will be shown at the National Conference in Los Angeles, May 15-16.

TECHNICAL NEWS: NEW DEVICE REPORTED

On the Today show on March 5, cardiologist Dr. Paul Unger demonstrated a cardiac monitor, a device about the size of a pack of cigarettes, which is worn on the patient and sends a radio signal to a central point. It continuously monitors the heart while the patient is sleeping, walking, working, or engaged in other activities.

Intended to provide early warning of heart trouble, the present receiving unit can monitor two patients simultaneously; in fiture using a central computer, thousands could be monitored at once. It is hoped to reduce the weight of the sending unit from the present 8 ounces to 4 ounces. Frequency allocations will have to be worked out with the FCC. Eventually, using satellites and other sophisticated equipment, distance will be no problem.

From the standpoint of emergency freezing, the device will protect isolated people, or those who live alone, from a delayed discovery of death.

W. Runkel

EDITORIAL: NO PARTY LINE

In the January issue of the Cryonics Society of New York newsletter there is an article by Saul Kent dealing with a certain religious conference and religious questions. Saul saw fit to attribute to "cryonics" certain views that not all of us possess, and to make statements of a very dubious kind.

Among other things, he said, "Cryonics has grown out of the realization that death ends all meaning, and that the continuity of consciousness is essential to existence. . . . Life after death is an impossibility and any line of thought that accepts death is nihilistic."

In fact, these views are not shared by everyone in cryonics. Nicholas DeBlasio, for example, who froze his wife, Ann, is a devout Christian and would not have proceeded if his priest and bishop had not approved. Furthermore, the "impossibility" of life after death has not been proven; it is at most, for the scientist, a tentative conclusion. These questions are extremely subtle and complex, and to be dogmatic--on either side--is unreasonable.

Even disregarding religion entirely, there are many ways in which one might conceivably live after total

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NO PARTY LINE (continued)

destruction of the body. For example, according to one school of thought, information is never irretrievable, and in some distant future it might be possible to reconstitute an individual's personality, and thus--they say--the individual. Again, it is conceivable that mind is not just an aspect of brain; possibly there is a material, although very elusive "soul", which might bear the same relation to the body, in very rough analogy, that the neutrino bears to the neutron. It took a long time, remember, for the existence of the hypothetical neutrino to be experimentally verified, and many scientists thought there was no such thing.

Since these questions remain open, we should not be dogmatic, and we should not gratuitously offend religious people who might otherwise join with us. It is not necessary that everyone in cryonics have "religious fervor". We do not demand total allegiance, and we do not make people toe any ideological line. Our success to date--modest though it is--has been based on a balanced, reasonable, non-dogmatic, non-fanatic approach.

Of course, tactics are debatable. Many organizations and movements have had considerable success based on conviction amounting to dogmatism and zeal amounting to fanaticism. Perhaps one perfervid worker is better than a dozen lazy, though friendly, kibitzers. But I see no evidence that this approach would work for cryonics, even if we were cynical enough to adopt it.

In cryonics there is no dogma and no heresy. Like the Republican and Democratic parties, in our house are many mansions. We are practical people, cooperating for a practical prupose--to save and extend our lives. We are not opposed to philosophical discussions--far from it--but no one can establish cryonics orthodoxy.

Robert Ettinger

THANATOLOGY FOUNDATION FORMED

What is death? How does one really prepare for this seemingly inevitable specter? How does one mourn the passing of relatives and yet retain an adequate mental state? What are the facts concerning scientific achievements in this field?

A recently formed organization, The Foundation of Thanatology, is looking for answers to these and other questions about death. Working actively to promote understanding about somatic death, the group hopes to fulfill the interdisciplinary needs of professional people in many related areas. The result should be a pooling of knowledge that has only occurred infrequently in the past.

The official publication of the foundation, The Archives of the Foundation of Thanatology (published quarterly) should be of considerable interest to all of us involved with cryonics and life extension. The October issue contained articles dealing with a variety of subjects that should appeal to the clinician, the priest and the lawyer as well as the lay person.

"The Definition of Death" by Fred Rosner, M.D., Assistant Director, Division of Hematology, Maimonides Medical Center, relates to us some of the difficulties with which science must deal in order to determine when a person has died. Unlike past generations, when crudely determined cessation of heart and lungs was a sufficient criterion, the growing trend toward possible organ transplants makes it imperative to utilize more elaborate tests and procedures, such as "complete bilateral pupillary dilation unreactive to light, absent reflexes, cessation of spontaneous respiration, absence of measurable blood pressure or detectable pulse, and a flat electro-

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THANATOLOGY (continued)

encephalogram." Dr. Rosner points out that even these criteria are not always sufficient and have failed on more than one occasion.

Religious definitions of death have also proved to be inadequate. "The Church requires 'clear and reasonable' evidence for death before a heart can be removed for transplantation. However, 'clear and reasonable' remain to be defined," Dr. Rosner wrote.

Another article, entitled "The Right to Die in Dignity," by Frederic P. Herter, M.D., Chairman, Department of Surgery, Columbia University, firmly advances the belief that patients in a terminal condition should be given the truth about their disease. Herter wrote, "I am impressed by the ability of most people to accept the truth, and wherever possible, I believe it is the duty of the physician to be candid with the patient and family alike." Herter maintains that there is much a patient would like to and needs to do before the end, such as making a will, disposal of property, etc. (Freezing might be added to this list.)

Those of us in cryonics have been boosting research into this greatly neglected area for the past five years and appreciate the formation of the Foundation of Thanatology. It gives us evidence of the increasing awareness among others of what we consider to be some basic problems of social progress.

Patrick Dewey

Why not give an associate membership in the Cryonics Society of Michigan for that next birthday or graduation?

At $10/year, it includes The Outlook, a copy of The Prospect of Immortality, sample legal forms, bibliographies, and special mailings and privileges as decided from time to time.

If you aren't yet a member, give yourself a present.

Next page: national conference news, registration

NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

The Cryonics Society of California reports that a gratifying number of distinguished scientists, among others, have accepted invitations to speak at the Third Annual National Cryonics Conference, May 15-16 at the Airport Marina Hotel, Los Angeles.

One of our own directors, Dr. Ronald Havelock, is scheduled to present a paper called, "Why Is There Resistance to Cryonics--An Analysis of Factors". Dr. Havelock, a social psychologist at the University of Michigan, has long had a professional interest in the birth and development of new ideas, and has done much scholarly writing on this topic. His new paper will continue an investigation first reported at the 1969 national conference.

Professor Harry R. Elden, of Barry College in Florida, will report on his research in frozen preservation of biological material, including human skin. Dr. Elden is a biophysicist working in cryobiology, and before moving to Barry College was Chief of Biophysics Section, Gerontology Research Center, National Institutes of Health, Baltimore. He is also a consultant in biophysics and gerontology at the Crentreich Foundation in New York.

The Los Angeles Conference will be broadly based and will have much to interest the layman as well as the scientist, physician, clergyman, mortician, cemetarian, attorney and insurance agent. There will be exhibits of many kinds and some of the functions will include professional entertainment.

Although the trip to California isn't short or cheap, it promises to be very rewarding. The registration below should be mailed to: Cryonics Society of California, 216 Pico Boulevard, Suite 3, Santa Monica, California 90405.

REGISTRATION

Third Annual National Cryonics Conference

Airport Marina Hotel & Tower, Los Angeles, California, May 15-16, 1970

Name_____
(Include spouse's name if attending)

Profession or Occupation_____

Membership Organization_____

Address_____ (City)_____ (State)_____ (Zip)_____

Charges:

Conference Registration	$12.50	(per person)	_____
Friday Luncheon:	5.30	" "	_____
Friday Night Banquet	7.40	" "	_____
Saturday Luncheon	5.30		_____
(Tax and Tip included)			
		Total	_____

I enclose $_____